

June 9, 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE ALLEN W. DULLES

Attached in duplicate are revisions of the two letters and the Presidential statement, which you gave me yesterday in draft form.

Although I spent several hours on them last night, they need a good deal more work. This is particularly true of the Presidential statement, which needs to be sharpened and have put in it some of the specific material in the letters.

ROBERT OUTLER
Special Assistant
to the President

Attachments

June 9 RG draft

The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

About five years ago, the National Security Council set up a small committee of persons outside government, but familiar with intelligence operations, to review the work of the Central Intelligence Agency. That Committee included Mr. William H. Jackson, Mr. Mathias Correa, and myself as Chairman. The report which we submitted in January 1949 served as the basis for certain organizational changes which my predecessor, General Walter Bedell Smith, put into effect shortly after he became Director of Central Intelligence.

The five years following this report have seen basic changes in the problems which this Agency faces. The Soviets now have nuclear power. Their scientific and technical skills are growing. They seek to spread their sway throughout doubtful lands by a creeping subversion. The world has shrunk.

As intelligence targets change, our country's need is intensified for two-way links with the intelligence sources in all free world countries. What we can learn from them today may save for us tomorrow.

Under these circumstances, I feel impelled as the Statutory Intelligence Adviser to the President to say that I would welcome your agreement that the time was again suitable for a review by a competent Board of the work of the Agency. The report of a Board of Consultants convened by you could include a study of the Agency's programs, techniques and administrative set-up, its progress in carrying out its statutory duties of coordinating and making more effective the intelligence operations of government, and a review of its personnel policies and control of the expenditure of funds entrusted to the Agency by the Congress.

May I suggest that reviews of this nature might be carried out at such periodic intervals as the National Security Council might determine to be appropriate?

While I might constitute such a Board by my own action, I believe that the high caliber of men required to carry out this mission can be secured only by your taking the initiative to appoint the Board, thus emphasizing your interest in the subject-matter of its inquiry.

Faithfully yours,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Your letter of June 7th recalled our earlier discussions of the most appropriate way to obtain an independent review of the work of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Reliable intelligence, freshly received, is essential to survival in our modern age. Your Agency, which fits together the bits and pieces, coming from all quarters of the world, has a most precious function. Its antennae receive secrets from every friendly government. The success of your Agency's operations rests on trust and confidence in its dealings. If that trust is shaken, if that confidence is betrayed, if those secrets are not inviolate, the source of intelligence dries up. My experience has abundantly taught me that there is only one way to get trustworthy intelligence: - by keeping an open eye and an open ear and a shut mouth.

Accordingly, I welcome your suggestion that I take the initiative to appoint a Board of Consultants to review your Agency's work and report to me through the National Security Council.

The review of this Board, in addition to covering the important objectives outlined in your letter, should deal with your obligation under the National Security Act of 1947 to protect intelligence sources from unauthorized disclosure, in the light of your duty to furnish to appropriate Committees of the Congress such information with respect to the operations of the Agency as may be reasonably required in the exercise of their legislative and appropriative functions.

At my request, General Omar W. Bradley, Dr. Karl T. Compton, and Mr. Robert C. Sprague (any Democrat?) have consented to serve as members of the Board of Consultants. You are instructed to make available to them such information as they may require in connection with their review. Other intelligence agencies of the Government will be instructed to afford to the Board like facilities, insofar as the Board may deem this necessary in considering the function of the Central Intelligence Agency in coordinating the intelligence activities of the Government.

I wish the Board to complete its study in time for my consideration before your Agency's Budget for FY '55 is submitted to the Congress.

Sincerely,

DRAFT OF PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT OF A MEETING WITH

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS (to be given out to the press.)

The President stated that for some time he had been disturbed by reports that an attempt might be made to subject the Central Intelligence Agency to a type of Congressional investigation which would inevitably disclose highly classified security matters to potential enemies of the United States.

The President expressed to the Congressional leaders with whom he consulted this morning his feeling that such an investigation would result in serious harm to our national security.

The Congress, he said, had set up the Central Intelligence Agency as a part of the National Security Council, advisory to him as President, and provided that its Director should be the Intelligence Adviser to the President. He looked upon the Central Intelligence Agency as an integral part of his executive equipment, intended by the Congress to be close and useful to him in carrying out the manifold responsibilities of the Presidency.

The President made clear to the Congressional leaders that he recognized that the Congress had the right to information necessary for the exercise of its legislative and appropriative functions. To that end, the Director of Central Intelligence had kept in the closest touch with the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees of the two Houses of the Congress and had furnished these Committees with all information which they had sought.

The President emphasized that it was a good idea for them to be kept currently advised of the Agency's activities, in keeping with the wise provision included by the Congress in the National Security Act of 1947 "that the Director of Central Intelligence shall be responsible for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure." The President expressed his firm conviction that the Executive and the Congress should cooperate in carrying out this legislative mandate.

The President further expressed to the Congressional leaders his view that the appropriate Committees of Congress should be satisfied as to the integrity of the administration of the Central Intelligence Agency, the handling of the funds intrusted to it, and the exercise of the powers and duties conferred upon it under the National Security Act of 1947 and directives of the National Security Council thereunder.

He released to the Congressional leaders the correspondence which he had had with the Director of Central Intelligence and of his decision, as indicated in this correspondence and as requested by the Director of Central Intelligence, to set up a "Board of Consultants", with duties and functions outlined in that correspondence.

The Congressional leaders present expressed their unanimous concurrence in the view that the legislative and appropriative functions should be exercised by the Congress, insofar as the Central Intelligence Agency is concerned, in a manner to protect intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure and they welcomed the President's action in setting up the high level Board of Consultants.